

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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State Grant to Benefit Albion Children **Before and After School and Summer** **Programs to be Supported by DHS Grant**

State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) announced the awarding of a \$375,000 grant to Albion Public Schools. The grant will span three years and will be used to fund before and after school and summer programs for at-risk youth.

“I can’t thank Governor Granholm and DHS enough for their commitment to the children of Albion. This infusion of dollars will support a strong partnership among the schools, the community, and faith-based organizations.”

The grant is the result of a meeting between Sen. Schauer and the Department of Human Services (DHS). In the meeting, Schauer expressed the needs in Albion for community-based before and after school programs. Of particular interest to Schauer was the TWIST program, a faith-based physical education program that has served as a model of effectiveness for such initiatives.

“I appreciate that DHS was willing to go back to the table and negotiate a grant that will provide the resources this program and other like it need. When you have something that you know works, it is common sense to do everything you can to ensure its continuation,” said Schauer.

Initial estimates predicted a grant of only \$150,000 for Albion Public Schools. Sen. Schauer worked with DHS and Albion Schools to ensure that Albion’s proven programs received the necessary funding. When the final grants were determined, Albion was awarded \$375,000.

Mario Morrow, superintendent of Albion Public Schools praised Sen. Schauer for his involvement in the grant, “I am delighted by Sen. Schauer’s work on our behalf to make this grant opportunity happen. This financial support for these programs is crucial. If not for Sen. Schauer’s efforts, it is unlikely that we would have received this outstanding and much needed award. The grant will help us to focus on our #1 goal: student achievement. The entire community of Albion will benefit, and we thank him for his work.”

The stipulations of the grant include that the grant be used for students in kindergarten through ninth grade and that that academic help with reading and writing be included. Additionally, three of the following components must be included:

- Abstinence-based pregnancy prevention.
- Non-medical chemical abuse and dependency prevention/awareness.
- Gang violence prevention.

- Preparation toward future self-sufficiency.
- Leadership development.
- Case management or mentoring.
- Parental involvement.
- Anger management.

This grant is part of a DHS package focusing on before and after school care. State-wide, the grants total \$5 million. Jackson Community Schools and Highfields, Inc., a Jackson County based non-profit that works with at-risk youth and their families, received grants as well.

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.